2/2/73

PH:

A note I attached to the O'Neill letter says I sent you copies of it and the attached Schreiber letter.

I don't know if you have checked to see which of the listed documents is available. Some look familiar but if I have them they are in the unfiled accumulation.

If you have them I'd like to know before I pay Archives' high rate for copies.

I believe that having them will be of possible value in litigation. It should reflect that classification and withholding were not really justified or necessary.

Any account of the Epstein book can have the same values. I'm sure Jim will give the court that in tonight's Star.

The combination of factors may lead to government to release these transcripts. If they do I will hold a press conference to give them away, as I have done on prior occasions with other records. And I'll send you a copy from which you can provide copies to others who may want them.

In case we come to a bridge to cross.

Any reflection of access to records withheld from the rest of us in the Epstein opus can be of importance in freeing other withheld records as well as in litigation, so I hope that when you read it you will keep this in mind and provide what you spot to us so Jim can use it.

Jim is surprised that no reporter has called me to ask about the stories about the Epstein theorizing. I'm not. I believe most will recognize it as preposterous.

Jim also mentioned that Lifton had phoned him seeking a means of me sending those 60,000 pages out there because he can get 1,000 pages copied free each week. He said that Lifton is to write further. However, the notion appears to me to be impractical. Not only is the packaging and shipping outside my capabilities, it would take more than a year. And nobody else would have access for that period.

Even for Lifton this seems pretty extreme. Has he flipped out again?

He is capable of all sorts of wildness. If you detect any I trust you will be willing to let it be known that before I obtained these records, before any were released aside from the three volumes you received that I did not then know about, I took the initiative with others, including you, seeking support in the legal effort and an arrangement under which copies could be made for those wanting them while the records were still in D.C.

This may not be what some others would like to believe but you know it is true. There is precedent in my getting the Texas records at the Library of Congress and other such deposits around and with other things, I think your JFK microfilm and the 1972 Archives releases.

If they decide to just give me these ~~xxxxxx~~ transcripts, which would not be precedent, perhaps it would be easier if I let the ALB make its own copies and then forward the one I'm be giving you?

Sincerely,